

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have been examined. Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim objections

Claims 15 and 16 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits the rewriting of the claims to be unnecessary in view of our comments offered below.

Claim rejections -- Double Patenting

Claims 1-10 and 12-14 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-10 and 12-14 of co-pending Application No. 10/824,430. Additionally, claim 11 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being allegedly unpatentable over claim 11 of co-pending Application No. 10/824,430.

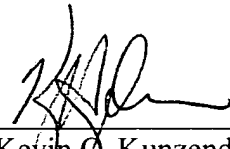
Applicant has filed a Preliminary Amendment in co-pending Application No. 10/824,430 to cancel claims 1-14 therein. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment so filed is attached to this Response. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow all the claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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